

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These Remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed June 26, 2004. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 3-8, 12, 16-19, 24-29, 37-40 and 43-50. Accordingly, claims 3, 6, 12, 16, 24, 27, 37, 43, 45, 47 and 49 have been rewritten in independent format to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The remaining claims are dependent on one of the amended claims. Despite disagreement with the rejection of the currently rejected claims, claims 1, 13, 22 and 34 have been cancelled without prejudice in an effort to expedite prosecution.

Therefore, all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

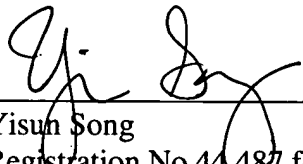
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that prosecution and allowance of the application will be expedited through an interview, whether personal or telephonic, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with any suggestions leading to the favorable disposition of the application.

It is believed that no fees are due for filing this Response. However, the Director is hereby authorized to treat any current or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. Applicants also authorize the Director to charge all required fees, fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17, or all required extension of time fees, to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,
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By:



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Dated: September 29, 2004
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